

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen



Photo by Alexandra Williams

## Say hello to the First Lady

Ann Burski, 284th Base Support Battalion, surprises library technician Reginald Stewart with the news that he has been selected by the Federal Library and Information Committee of the Library of Congress as the Federal Library Technician of the Year for 2002. Stewart will receive his award during a trip to the Library of Congress March 19 and may have an opportunity to meet First Lady Laura Bush.

## Health update

### Recognizing the warning signs of asthma vital to saving lives

Asthma, a condition affecting the pulmonary system, can sometimes make breathing difficult.

A person with asthma has inflammation (redness, swelling) in the lungs, even when he or she is having no trouble breathing at all. Asthma can last for years or a lifetime. Many of those who suffer from asthma are children.

There are four types of asthma: • mild intermittent, • mild persistent, • moderate persistent and • severe persistent.

It's important to learn about asthma for everyone because recognizing its warning signs can save lives. The sooner asthma is diagnosed, the sooner treatment

can begin.

Some of the warning signs of asthma may include but are not limited to unusual tiredness, a slouched posture, restlessness in bed, faster breathing, a scared or worried look, sunken spaces between the ribs, pale or sweaty skin, wheezing or noisy breathing, coughing or frequent throat clearing.

If you suspect that you or a loved one may have asthma, see your health care provider for details and a complete diagnosis. For more information contact your local medical treatment facility or the Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator at mil 324-3465. (Courtesy of Robin Ruzicka, 284th BSB Army Community Service)



## Youngsters DARE to say no to drugs, violence

By Luz Medeiros

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Learning at a young age about the dangers of drug abuse and violence is essential in the upbringing of children, officials said.

"Our mission is to prevent substance abuse among school-age children, to teach them about drugs and violence and to increase stranger awareness," said Sgt. Aaron Eckert, Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer for the 284th Base Support Battalion.

"In the 284th BSB we are offering the program to children in grades kindergarten to fifth-grade, each class having different goals. I am also going to the high school, but currently we don't have a program for the middle school. We are supposed to start that next year," said Eckert.

The younger students are taught in a playful way how to recognize danger. "I show them pictures and other learning materials and I give them advice on what to do. I try to see that they enjoy the class and have lots of fun," he said.

Butzbach Elementary School first-graders recently shared what they've learned. "Sgt. Eckert teaches us how to be safe and to always stick to the rules," said Cassandra Sudduth. "He told us that before you cross the street you have to stop, look to the left and right and count to three. There are many rules and he tells us about them."

"We've learned that some drugs are good and some are not. Some of them don't have any alcohol and help people to feel better," said Jennifer Ravag.

"No one ever offered me a cigarette before, but I've learned to say no because they are not good," said Skyler Geissler. "But sometimes adults need to have a cigarette because it is good for them, they say."

"My favorite part is when he talks about



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Sgt. Aaron Eckert talks to kindergarteners at the Butzbach Elementary School about taking precautions in unknown neighborhoods.

strangers," said first-grader Savion Johnson.

The program gets more in-depth for the fifth-graders, said Eckert. "At that age they are capable of understanding detailed information, they are going through a 17-week long program. The information is broken down in specific levels that involve consequences. They have to write an essay, and upon completion

we do a graduation ceremony with a cake and diplomas."

Eckert's method of teaching is not to talk down to the children, he said, but rather to advise them like a best friend or older brother. "You need to be a child at heart to teach DARE," he said. "You also need to enjoy working with them. I volunteered for this

position last summer because I really enjoy interacting with children."

The program is also designed to support parents teaching their children about the dangers of drugs and violence, he said. "Parents need to be role models for the children."

For more information on the 284th BSB DARE program call mil 343-8602.



# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Sixth-graders get insight on different jobs

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Groundhog Job Shadow Day is the traditional day when children “shadow” a workplace mentor. Because Feb. 2 fell on a Sunday this year and so many 1st Brigade soldier parents were in the field, the event was moved up to Jan. 31 and only sixth-graders participated.

The students spent their time learning about a wide variety of jobs throughout the Giessen community.

Alan Hance spent the day with his mother, a substitute teacher at Giessen Middle-High School. “He wanted to accompany his dad to the 2-3rd Field Artillery motor pool but they are in the field. He had to come with me instead, and today I am teaching math. I know it’s a rough day for him because he does not like math,” said Pam Hance.

“I don’t know if I want to become a teacher — maybe one day. The good part about being a teacher is that you get to know many other students. That’s great. The bad part is that you have to sit around all day,” said Alan. “I want to be a soldier when I am old enough because going to the field is fun.”

Chad Battle accompanied his mother Betty Johnson, a child care provider at the Child Development Center in Giessen. “The job is too much stress. You always have to



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Sgt. Thomas Tucker of the 527th Military Police Company explains a radar gun to his son Chris (center) and William Domko. The boys accompanied Tucker to the 284th BSB Provost Marshal's Office during this year's Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

watch what the children do,” said Battle, who also wanted to accompany his father, a small arms mechanic with the 501st Forward Sup-

port Battalion. “I accompanied dad before. It’s interesting to spend a day in the motor pool, but the best part about it is to be able to spend time with him.

“Right now I have three choices. Either I will be a lawyer, a football player or a basketball player,” said Battle. “I think these are cool jobs.”

The Army is not for him, he said. “You have to wake up early, go to war and you don’t get to do what you want to do. There is always someone who tells you what to do, and I don’t think that I want that.”

Johnson was glad to be able to spend the day with her son, she said. “It gave him a chance to see what I am doing at work. He always asks me why I am so tired after work and now he knows why. By helping me he saw all the things you have to do when you are working with children. He had to help me doing the laundry, tie their shoes or help them if they need you. I think the day was a good experience for him.”

“I was shadowing my mom around her work at Army Community Service,” said Lizbeth Ramirez. “It was a fun and interesting experience. I helped putting together CIB books, cut out hearts, make copies. I answered the phone and greeted customers. I enjoyed the experience.”

Despite enjoying the day, she said an office job is not her primary career goal. “I want to become a

biologist.”

“I am glad she came with me today. We had fun and she helped us a lot. But it’s not like you are getting a break from being a mom because at work you also have to look what she’s doing, and you have to tell her what to do next,” said her mother, Maritza.

Chris Tucker and William Domko spent a day with Chris’ father, Sgt. Thomas Tucker, at the 284th BSB Provost Marshal’s Office.

“I showed them around the station, brought them to the motor pool where they were able to see some of our equipment and vehicles. They also got to go on patrol in a patrol car in the Giessen and Butzbach housing areas,” said Tucker. “Actually I was scheduled to be off today but I wanted to make sure that the boys could participate in the program and learn more about the duties of an MP.”

“We saw a lot of different things like the detention cell, the riot shields and the desk sergeant’s office. The motor pool was cool because we got to see the different vehicles. Some have light and others have heavy armor. But it was really cold out there,” said Domko.

“I am used to my dad’s work because I’ve been around this for a while, but it’s still fun to come here, especially with William. He could not go with his dad because he’s in the field,” said Chris.

Learning about the various duties of MPs was exciting, but going on patrol with Tucker was the most fun, they said. “The ride in the patrol car was pretty good. Using the radar gun was fun,” said Chris. “Hearing the people talking on the radio was cool, and it was real fun to see how people slowed down once they saw the radar gun,” said Domko. “You could see that they were going fast and suddenly they slowed down to like 27 miles. I said to myself ‘Are you trying to break the law?’ when I saw that,” said Chris.

Is the Army a job option for the boys?

“I would only join the Army if I don’t get a scholarship to go to West Point or Notre Dame. I would become a soldier to save my money, then go to college to become an officer in the field artillery. I think that field artillery is the best job because I would get to blow up things then,” said Domko.

“I don’t have a clue yet what I want to do. I still have time to think about it,” said Chris.

Tucker said he enjoyed spending his day off with the boys, because just like the boys he also got a lot out of it. “I am glad to see the boys are interested in seeing what we do. I showed them the different missions and jobs we have and hopefully that takes away the bad guy label that MPs have.”



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Maritza Ramirez and her daughter Lizbeth put together Community Information Books on the computer during the Groundhog Job Shadow Day Jan. 31.



# 284th BSB — Friedberg, Giessen

## Community spotlight ... Community spotlight

### Help Line

The 284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service provides a 24-hour service line. Help One can be reached at mil 111 or civ (0641) 402-111.

### VA benefits briefing Feb. 20

A Veterans Affairs benefits briefing will be held Feb. 20 from 9-11 a.m. in Building 7, Room 312 on the Giessen Depot. The briefing is open to the community and appointments are not needed. Topics include the GI Bill, VA home loan guarantees and disability claims. For details call Tina Sowinski at mil 343-8332.

### WIC-O job vacancy

Choctaw Management Services Enterprise has a part-time position available at the Women, Infants and Children-Overseas program in Friedberg. Experience in maternal, child or infant nutrition is required; WIC experience is desired. A registered dietitian is preferred. Applicants must have a current U.S. Army Europe driver's license and be willing to travel. Send resume, cover letter and copy of applicable licenses to [cathleen.holmes@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:cathleen.holmes@ramstein.af.mil), fax to civ

(06731) 479 383 or bring it to the Friedberg WIC-O office in Building 3622 on Ray Barracks.

### Volunteers sought

The Hearts and Hands Community Club seeks volunteers to work as bank tellers, dealers and at the gambling tables during the annual Wild West Night March 8 at the Villa Calabria on Friedberg's Ray Barracks. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Judith Brown at mil 324-3282.

### High School bingo, yard sale

The Giessen High School Booster Club and the junior class host Polish Pottery Bingo Feb. 28. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the games start at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for 10 games or \$8 if the ticket is purchased in advance. Door prizes are given to every entry. Food will be available. A community-wide yard sale will be conducted March 1 at the high school gym. Booth space is still available. For details call civ (0641) 4955 954.

### Illegal to idle

Leaving automobiles idling to defrost or warm up the car is against German law. The

Federal Traffic Control Ordinance can and will fine any offenders. Never leave a car idling while running errands: it pollutes the air and wastes fuel. Remember that it only takes a thief one second to jump in your car and drive off.

### PWOC meetings

The Friedberg Protestant Women of the Chapel meet every Wednesday from 9:15-11:30 a.m. at the chapel on Ray Barracks. All women are welcome to attend the meetings and join the worship and Bible study. Child care is provided. For more information call mil 324-2028.

### CWOC monthly meeting

Friedberg's Catholic Women of the Church meet every first Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Ray Barracks Chapel Annex. Child care will be provided. For details call Bobbi McKenna at civ (06031) 169 871.

### Marathon TIPOSH training

A marathon Training In the Prevention Of Sexual Harrassment day offering one-hour sessions throughout the day will be conducted March 11 starting at 9 a.m. in the conference room of Building 115, on the Giessen Depot. No reservations are necessary. Supervisors have to ensure that all employees without training will attend. For more information call mil 343-7821.

### Healthy soul food cooking class

In recognition of the National Nutrition Month the 104th Area Support Group health promotions coordinator will offer a cooking class March 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Giessen Army Community Service kitchen. The menu features healthy soul food. The class is free, but preregistration is required if you wish to eat lunch. This class is open to all ID card holders. For details call mil 343-7448.

### SAS Mardi Gras Party

School-Age Services hosts a Mardi Gras Costume Party Feb. 28 from 7-10 p.m. at the Butzbach Elementary School gym. The party is open to all CLEOS registered first- to sixth-graders. Cost is \$5. For more information call mil 343-8216.

### 'Goodbye Girl' at Keller Theater

The Keller Theater in Giessen presents "The Goodbye Girl," a musical comedy by Neil George, March 7-8, 13-15 and 20-22 at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information call mil 343-6515.

### SAS banner making day

The 284th Base Support Battalion 4-H Clubs conduct a Making a Personal Banner Day Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Butzbach SAS. Cost is \$20 including materi-

als, lunch and a snack. For details call civ (06033) 65961.

### Arts and Crafts classes

Giessen Arts and Crafts holds a **framing class** Feb. 20 from 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$15 including materials. A **watercolor class** takes place Feb. 20 from 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$15. A **Window Mobile Class for Kids** will be offered Feb. 20 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.50. A **Felt Art class** for children will be held Feb. 27 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.50. The shop will be closed Feb. 18-19 for training.

Friedberg Arts and Crafts hosts an **Intro to Computer Graphics** every Monday from 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$5. **Kreative Kids** meets every Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$5.50 and includes materials. A **Black and White Photography** class will be featured March 3, 17 and 31 at 5 p.m. Cost is \$10. A **Pottery Class** will be hosted March 3 and 5 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$5 including materials. A **Stained Glass Part I class** will be held March 6. Cost is \$20. The shop will be closed Feb. 20-21 for training. For more information call Friedberg Arts and Crafts at mil 324-3266 or the Giessen shop at mil 343-6445.

### Wild West Late Night Day Care

The Friedberg Child Development Center offers late night child care March 8 during "Wild West Night" from 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. The cost is \$18.75 and includes dinner and a snack. Reservations and payment must be submitted by Feb. 21. To enroll contact the Friedberg Child Development Center in Building 3613 on Ray Barracks or call mil 324-3137, 3504.

### Photo Lab hours

The Official Photo Lab on Ray Barracks is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for Department of the Army photos. Appointments are required. Soldiers are encouraged to arrive early enough to start the appointment on time and to be familiar with AR 640-30 (photographs for military personnel file) as the soldier is responsible for the uniform appearance — not the photographer. Passport and chain of command photos can be taken Monday and Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. The photographer is also available to documents significant unit training events. For details call mil 324-3252.

### Bulk trash pick up

The next bulk trash pick up for all housing areas in the 284th Base Support Battalion will be held March 7. Bulk trash can also be dropped off at the Giessen Recycling Center. Residents who cannot wait for the next scheduled bulk trash pick up or have no means of transportation to the Recycling Center can call the installation coordinator to schedule an appointment for individual pick up. Residents of the Giessen, Butzbach and Wetzlar housing areas can call mil 343-6860 and residents of the Bad Nauheim and Friedberg housing areas can call mil 324-3100.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

### Farewell to Task Force Keystone

Col. David J. Bender, 284th Base Support Battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Keith E. Francis present a Certificate of Appreciation and BSB coin to each member of Task Force Keystone during a farewell ceremony Feb. 10 in the Woodland Club in Giessen. Bender and Francis were joined by Col. Don C. Young, 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ioakimo Falaniko in thanking the National Guards for their support in the past six months, which allowed local soldiers to concentrate on their training and field exercise schedule.

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## ACS update

The 284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service offers a variety of workshops and classes geared toward empowering the military family.

The **Soups' On** is held every third Thursday of the month in Giessen from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., every fourth Friday of the month in Friedberg from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and every first Tuesday of the month in Butzbach from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This free luncheon is open to everybody. Children are welcome.

A **Movie Day** is hosted every second and fourth Tuesday of the month in Giessen from 10-11:30 a.m. This is a learning activity for children under age 5 and includes a snack for parents and children.

**Scrappily Ever After** is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This workshop is open to all who wish to learn how to make a scrapbook or already know how and wish company. Bring your own supplies and sack lunch.

For more information on ACS classes call ACS in Giessen at mil 343-7618 or in Friedberg at mil 324-3465.

## Spelling champs qualify for next level

Story and photos by  
**Alexandra Williams**  
284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Chad Battle from the Giessen Elementary School and Ian Ragan of the Bad Nauheim Elementary School won Spelling Bee competitions held at their schools in January.

Both students will represent their schools at the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe-wide competition March 29 in Stuttgart.

For Giessen's spelling champ Chad Battle it was the first time participating at a Spelling Bee com-



Giessen's spelling champ Chad Battle.

petition. "I had to study every day for it, and my mom helped me," said the sixth-grader.

"I will study even more for the competition in Stuttgart," he said.

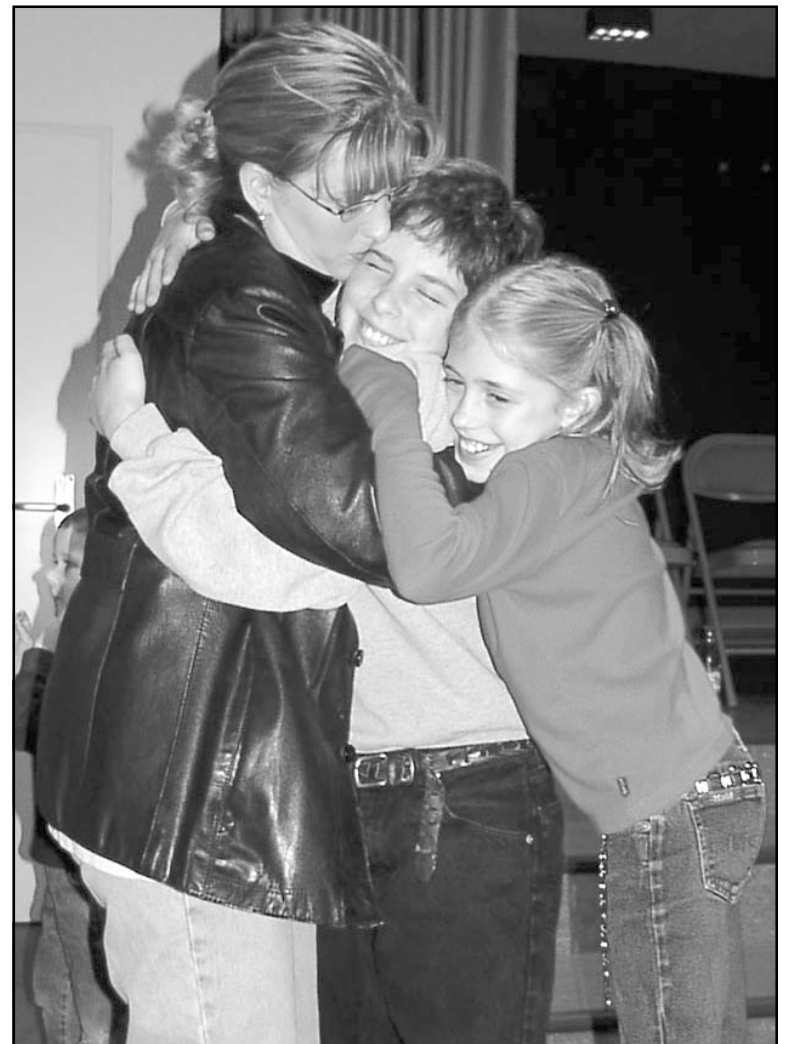
Much support comes from his friends, he said. "After I won the competition they told me that they are very proud of me. Many even offered me their help studying for the competition," he said.

Bad Nauheim's champ Ian Ragan participated for the second time. "I studied really hard this year. Last year I did not and I lost," said the fifth-grader.

"I helped my brother to study for the Spelling Bee competition. I am so proud of him and I am really happy that he won," said his sister Peyton.

"My lucky number also helped me during the competition. I was number three in the contest and that is one of my lucky numbers. Actually it's 73 because that was the amount of jellybeans that were in a jar and you had to guess the number and I guessed it right. Three is also in 73 so I knew that it was my lucky day today," he said.

The winner of the Spelling Bee in Stuttgart qualifies to attend the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., in May.



Bad Nauheim spelling champ Ian Ragan enjoys a hug from his mother Brandy Willis (left) and his sister Peyton after the competition.

## Civilian Fitness Program

### Lack of time no excuse for not getting in shape

By **Alexandra Williams**  
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Civilian employees, like their soldier counterparts, owe it to themselves to stay in shape. Having a healthy body goes a long way toward having a healthy mind, said local health and fitness experts.

Employees can exercise their option to stay in shape during working hours through the Army's Civilian Fitness Program. People wishing to take advantage of the opportunity to work out during duty hours for up to three hours a week for six months can sign up for the program March 11 from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-3 p.m. in Friedberg and March 12 from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. in Giessen.

"Individuals wishing to participate must come to the enrollment, fill out some paperwork, and we have to do a fitness assessment," said Lori Pineda, 104th Area Support Group health promotion coordinator.

Supervisors are encouraged to support the program and enrollment efforts of their staff, she said.

"The first enrollment had good results. Initially we had 28 people sign up and 10 completed the program. This is not bad," Pineda said. "The people who dropped out either PCS'd or were not able to utilize the hours allotted for the program."

To avoid non-completion due to lack of time participants are encouraged to discuss enrollment with their supervisor. An agreement signed by the supervisor is part of the enrollment procedure.

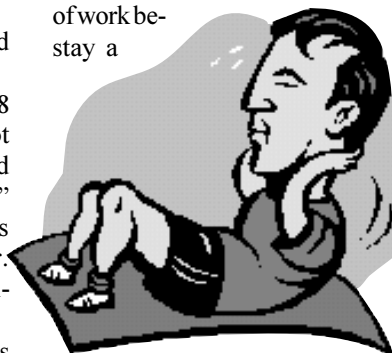
Irma Moore, 284th Base Support Battalion commander's secretary, was among the first participants in the program in Giessen. "I was glad when Col. (David) Bender (284th BSB commander) signed the agreement. I never worked out in a gym before and now I had the chance to get started without making up excuses why I don't have the time to

go to the gym," she said.

"Once I started the program I found out that I am a morning person and that it is a lot easier for me to exercise then. Of course I had setbacks and I really had to force myself to get up at 5 a.m. just to be in the gym by 6 a.m., but once I was there I was ready to go," she said, adding that she enrolled to lose weight and get back into shape.

"Just going on a diet to lose weight does not help. Exercising is an important part in the process. Mark Smith of the Miller Hall gym and Lori helped me a lot. They gave me advice and sent me encouraging emails with information on how to lose weight and exercising," she said.

"I wanted to get back in shape like I used to when I was in the Army," said Charles Butler, lead mail clerk at the Friedberg Community Mail Room. "I noticed it was time to do something for myself. I worked out during the last hour of work because this way I was able to stay a little longer if I wanted to."



"We received positive comments from other participants. Working out on a regular basis helped them either lose or maintain weight, sleep better or feel better about themselves," said Pineda.

"I can only recommend Butler. "When I began exercising I was not in the best of shape, and now my blood pressure has improved, the pulse is better, I improved in every area."

The program is intended to not only have individuals

work out for a certain amount of time and get them used to a healthy workout schedule, said Pineda.

"I injured myself, so currently I am not able to work out. But once I get better I'll go back to my workout routine. I am really looking forward to that," said Moore. "I really miss working out. I can only encourage others to enroll because you start to feel better about yourself once you get into shape."

"Right now I am maneuvering back to the old me. I have not continued working out but I truly desire to do so," said Butler, who said his current work schedule doesn't allow much time for exercise. "It's easier when you do it during 'company time' because your employer agreed to it. It would be really difficult for me right now to leave at a certain time because someone else would have to pick up for me; arrangements have to be made."

"Through the program you learn how to change bad habits, live a healthier life and most importantly you feel better about yourself. I think it's also very important to know that your employer cares so much about you that he or she lets you participate," Butler said.

He also has a suggestion on how to improve enrollment procedures. "I wish the (health) clinics would get more involved. It would help many people if they checked the heart rate, cholesterol and other areas and then told them to go and work out — in a way order you to go and maybe even give you advice about what's the best routine for you. A (health) clinic recommendation should be a prerequisite," he said.

Anyone interested in signing up or needing more information can call Lori Pineda at mil 322-9509, Mark Smith, 284th BSB fitness specialist, at mil 343-7201 or send an email to [mark.smith@104asg.mwr.army.mil](mailto:mark.smith@104asg.mwr.army.mil).

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photo by Karl Weisel

McGruff, the crime-fighting dog, greets Gelnhausen youngsters. Right photo: Gary Helmer, 104th ASG safety manager, describes ways children can stay visible and safe when walking or biking through their neighborhoods.



Photo by David Ruderman

## Students encouraged to 'Be Safe, Be Seen'

### Safety campaign aimed at youths

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Education starts at home, but school is the place to reach the largest audience of children. In an effort to raise safety awareness, the 104th Area Support Group and 414th Base Support Battalion Safety Offices kicked off a Be Safe, Be Seen campaign at Gelnhausen Elementary School Feb. 10.

"Keep in mind that everything we are doing this afternoon is for you, to keep you safe," said principal Shirley Sheck as she greeted the school's 260 students. The children were given "slappies" or "slap wraps" — flexible reflective strips that can be worn around the arm or leg — before being brought to the gym for the school-wide assembly.

"I need all of you to help me by being part of my team," said Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz, 414th BSB commander. "It takes everybody to be seen and be safe. It's little things like this that'll help."

"They kind of glow in the dark, and they kind of glow in the light too," he said, urging

students to wear them. He urged the youngsters to think about their own safety whenever getting off a school bus, walking home, riding their bikes or walking their dogs.

"That'll be helpful for all of us," said Mraz. "The other part of it is you have to think — watch for all those people who can't see you."

Gary Helmer, 104th Area Support Group safety manager, and Ria Martinez, 414th Base BSB safety manager, addressed the children about the importance of being visible and related safety issues. They reiterated the need to be safety conscious by always wearing safety helmets when biking.

### McGruff steals the show

Martinez then introduced the star of the show, McGruff the crime-fighting dog, who worked the crowd, shaking hands with the enthusiastic youngsters.

Representatives of the 414th BSB Provost Marshal's Office introduced McGruff and were on hand to field general safety questions. The youngsters knew the answers to quite a few of their questions such as things to do to stay safe, including not talking to strangers, keeping away from needles and drugs, and notifying adults about suspi-

cious or unusual behaviors and activities the children might become aware of in their neighborhoods.

Martinez then split the student body into boys and girls for a safety cheer contest. With the girls shouting, "Be Safe," and the boys shouting, "Be Seen," the challenge was to see which group could cheer the loudest.

At first McGruff thought the girls were louder. After another face-off round he thought it was the boys. The final shouting match ended in a draw.

The children had fun letting off some steam, and each one filed back to class with a slap wrap of his or her own.

Does this kind of assembly raise awareness in young children under 10? "It's more of what the parents establish in the home," said Spc. Emmett Pastran of the 414th BSB, himself the father of 2- and 6-year-old children, who donned the canine crime-buster's iconic trench coat and furry uniform for his appearance.

"I honestly believe it does," said Pfc. William Behuniak of the 127th Military Police Company, also present at the safety assembly. Behuniak has seen his share of children injured on the streets both in Germany and in

the United States. "Yes, I have unfortunately," he said.

"I hope what they'll do when they see the 'slappie' is they'll think of other things, such as 'I should wear my bike helmet,' said Helmer. "Maybe the parents will pick up on it too — they are the worst offenders."

### 'Twofold approach'

"As much as anything it's a twofold kind of approach to safety," said Mraz. "The first part is raising awareness. The second part is reaping the benefit of actually raising visibility. Hopefully it'll be a reminder to them as it is a visible clue to motorists."

The safety assembly at Gelnhausen was followed later in the afternoon by similar assemblies and slap wrap distributions at Argonner and Sportfield Elementary Schools in Hanau, and similar programs are under way across the 104th ASG, said Helmer.

"The schools officer in the 222nd BSB passed the slap wraps out to the elementary school children, but they did it with little or no fanfare," he said. "The 221st and 284th BSBs have not indicated to me how they will implement the program there. They each have a supply of the armbands, but I am not sure how they want to use them."

## Bundeswehr guards draw local media interest

Story and photo by Heidi Höss

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

German soldiers standing guard at U.S. military installations have caught not only the attention of local U.S. community members but also their German neighbors.

Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz, 414th Base Support Battalion commander, held a press conference Feb. 5 to explain the transition from National Guard soldiers to German Bundeswehr guards to local German newspaper reporters.

Bundeswehr guards began guarding Büdingen Airfield on Feb. 10. Other areas in the 414th BSB were slated to have German military guards by Feb. 17.

"The Bundeswehr soldiers will focus their attention on military operational areas such as airfields, motor pools, etc.," Mraz said. "You will most likely not see them guarding housing areas and schools."

"I am glad that the Bundeswehr is now part of our team. This definitely adds another element to our force protection assets, not to mention the increased understanding, cooperation and partnership this activity will create," he said.

The German soldiers come from several different places and will rotate on a regular basis. The Bundeswehr soldiers are living on American posts and are authorized to use U.S. facilities such as the dining facilities.

A German reporter asked how American family members felt about being guarded by German soldiers. "We received so many positive comments when we had joint German-American police patrols driving through housing areas, I assume this will also be the case when the Bundeswehr soldiers become obvious," responded Mraz. "This is a follow-up to our well received joint patrol program executed by the German police and Military Police."



Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz fields questions from German reporters.



## New facility consolidates services

### Community Welcome Center opens after two-year, \$2.2 million project

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Unit leaders and project officers from throughout the 414th Base Support Battalion got an inside look at Hanau's new Community Welcome Center Feb. 7.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour marked the grand opening of the new center, which consolidates the Central Processing Facility and Inprocessing Training Center formerly located in Buildings 4 and 9 on Pioneer Kaserne into the new and improved Community Welcome Center in Buildings 20 and 21.

"What a wonderful facility," said Brig. Gen. Rhett A. Hernandez, senior tactical commander and 1st Armored Division assistant division commander for support. "We've spent more than two years and \$2.2 million taking a vision from a former BSB commander and turning it into a reality."

Hernandez stressed the importance of having transformed the Welcome Center into a "world-class" facility — the first impression most soldiers and families will have upon their arrival. "It should have our best people — world-class people — and I know that it does."



Incoming soldiers receive training and briefings at the Inprocessing Training Center in the new Community Welcome Center. Soldiers spend 12-14 duty days attending various training programs so that they are completely up to speed upon arrival at their unit, said Mack West, Community Welcome Center manager.

"This is the first thing new soldiers and families see when they arrive," said Mack West, Community Welcome Center manager, praising the new facility.

Child and Youth Services liaison, Education and Outreach Services; and Site Assistance Contracting Officer's Representative-Travel

in Building 20.

Building 21 hosts the Central In- and Outprocessing Facility; representatives of the 55th Personnel

Services Battalion; 39th Finance; the Housing Division; Personal Property Processing Center; Quality Control of the Consolidated Personal Property Shipping Office and the Hanau Medical Clinic.

Future improvements call for the two adjacent buildings to be connected by a through-way and the move of the SATO-Travel Office from Building 4 to the Hanau Welcome Center.

### 'Homey' atmosphere

"It didn't look pleasing or homey enough to new soldiers coming into the country," said Sgt. 1st Class Laverne Akers, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Inprocessing Training Center, adding that the newly opened facility is a vast improvement. "I love it — it's great."

"It's a great team that put this together," said Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz, 414th BSB commander, citing the various engineers and project officers who played a role in the construction project.

Mraz added that ongoing projects will continue to improve and consolidate facilities on the casern. "We're going to keep this going. The Central Issue Facility is next."

### Consolidation

During a tour of the facility he pointed out the improvements, brightly lit classrooms and the proximity of the various service agencies. "Now they are all right together."

The new center consolidates the Inprocessing Training Center;



Photos by Heidi Höss

Military pay clerk Spc. Felipe Paz (left) assists Chief Warrant Officer 2 Heath Cherneski of the 1-1st Cavalry with a financial issue at the Community Welcome Center. The new facility consolidates service agencies into one central location on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne.



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Around the community

### Hanau APO open Saturday

The Hanau Army Post Office at the Wolfgang Shopping Center is now open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (for a nine-week trial period). Other hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday from noon to 6 p.m.

### Vehicle holding lot

The 414th Base Support Battalion's holding lot on Grossauheim is open from 1:30-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Appointments are recommended. The lot is for non-operational vehicles and vehicles awaiting disposal. Non-operational vehicles not registered as non-operational in Hanau will be towed at the owner's expense to the holding lot for disposal. Call Staff Sgt. Jackson or Spc. Pastran at mil 322-1610 or 8253 for more information.

### Campo Pond access

Access to Campo Pond is now only possible through the back gate (No. 1 on Neuwirthshäuser Strasse) on Thursdays to alleviate military traffic/convoys at the New Argonner Housing gate during Sergeant's Time training. Gate No. 8 at New Argonner Housing will be closed on Thursdays (the gate connecting Campo Pond and the housing area). Call Mr. Stroud at mil 322-8070 for more information.

### Prayer Luncheon

The 414th Base Support Battalion Chaplain's Office hosts a National Prayer Luncheon Feb. 27 at noon at the International Club on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jack Aupke will speak. Family members are welcome. The suggested donation for officers is \$6, staff sergeants and above \$4.50 and sergeants and below \$3. Lunch includes a buffet, drink and dessert. Tickets are available from unit sergeants major or directly from the Chaplain's Office at mil 322-1570.

### Leadership class

The Advanced Skills Education Program offers courses for noncommissioned officers and junior officers aimed at enhancing communication, management, leadership and supervisory skills at the unit level. Students earn one semester hour of college credit in management from Central Texas College upon successful completion. An MTOB 1170 Styles of Leadership for NCO class will be held Feb. 24-28 from 8 a.m. to noon at Hanau's Pioneer Education Center. The class which "studies current Army thought on leadership with practical exercises in developing and using leadership styles within the framework of the military unit" is free and open to all eligible active duty soldiers. Enrollment is limited, so register early. Call Mrs. Bardusch at the Pioneer Education Center at mil 322-8380/9600.

### Awana Club welcomes youths

The Awana Club, a self-paced Christian children's organization, meets every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at Argonner Elementary School on Old Argonner Kaserne. The club is open to all children in grades kindergarten through sixth grade. Activities include games, sing alongs, Scripture reading and more. Call Lynn Stinson at civ (06181) 520 277 for more information.

### Home school support group

Are you a home schooler in the Hanau area or would you like to get more information about home schooling in general? Meet with other home schoolers Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. to talk about home schooling and forming a home school support group in the community. Call Terri Petrie for more information and directions at civ (06051) 828 655.

### Protestant Women of the Chapel meet on Thursdays

All women are welcome to attend Bible studies with the



Photo by Wolfgang Niebling

### Farewell to Task Force Keystone

Brig. Gen. Rhett A. Hernandez, senior tactical commander and assistant 1st Armored Division commander for support, and other officials bid farewell to Pennsylvania National Guard members of Task Force Keystone during a ceremony in Hanau Feb. 7. Hernandez presented the more than 150 Guard members with certificates of appreciation for their "selfless service and commitment to Task Force Keystone, the 1st Armored Division and our Army." In the letter Hernandez praised the soldiers' force protection efforts saying, "While on point, your presence deterred all threats and kept our families safe."

Protestant Women of the Chapel at Fliegerhorst Chapel from 9-11:15 a.m. every Thursday morning. Call civ (06181) 520 272 for more information

### Spouses Club offers thousands in scholarships

Applications for the Hanau Community Spouses Club scholarships are now available at the Hanau High School counselor's office and the Hanau Education Center on Pioneer Kaserne. High school seniors, family members and adult civilians are encouraged to apply. The deadline for submission is March 19. Last year the club gave out \$20,000 to more than a dozen students.

### Büdingen Middle School Teen Center now open

The Büdingen Teen Center is now open and accepting suggestions from interested teens and parents. Stop by Building 2330 on Armstrong Barracks Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. or Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Transportation will be provided to and from the Gelnhausen bus stop to the center daily. For more information call mil 321-4793 or civ (06042) 80-793.

### Volunteers wanted

The American Red Cross, Army Community Service, the library and Sports Office need volunteers. Contact the 414th Base Support Battalion installation volunteer coordinator at Hanau ACS, Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne or call mil 322-9110.

### Ballet classes

The Cardwell Youth Services Center features ballet classes Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:10-4 p.m. for children age 3-6 years old and Thursdays from 4-4:50 p.m. for children age 7-12. Participants must be registered with CLEOS and have a current health assessment on file. Cost is \$30 for a 50-minute

class. Call mil 322-9144 or 9919 for more information.

### Lunch at the International

The International Club on Fliegerhorst Kaserne features lunch every Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call mil 322-7266 for details.

### Updated Craft Shop hours

The American Sampler Craft Shop at Hanau's Wolfgang Shopping Center is now open Wednesday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is closed Mondays, Tuesdays and U.S. holidays. Call mil 322-8082 or civ (06181) 88-8082 for more information.

### Fitness points

Every spin class you sign up for earns points toward a free class. Take eight classes and get the ninth free. Spin classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. at the Cardwell Fitness Center. Cost is \$3 per session. For more information call the Cardwell Fitness Center at mil 322-8067.

### Sponsorship training classes

Help make the transition to Hanau easy with Army Community Service sponsorship classes. Classes are held the first and third Friday of each month from 10-11 a.m. in the Hanau ACS Conference Room, Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-8965 to sign up.

### Country dance class

The Hanau Rod and Gun Club offers free country dance classes every Saturday from 8-9 p.m. Learn all the two-steps and line dances you ever wanted to know. Join the class and avoid paying cover charge for the evening.

### Reading nights

Crack open a book on Army Family Reading Night at Pioneer Library in Hanau. Reading Nights will be featured through April 10 from 6-7 p.m. Call the Pioneer Library for program dates and to register at mil 322-8942.